

## **RESOLUTION NO. 1665**

### **A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM FUNDING**

**WHEREAS**, the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program is the centerpiece of the Housing and Community Development Act which was enacted in 1974; and

**WHEREAS**, the CDBG Program has as its primary objective “the development of viable urban communities, by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low and moderate income;” and

**WHEREAS**, the CDBG program has considerable flexibility to allow communities to carry out activities that are tailored to their unique affordable housing and neighborhood revitalization needs; and

**WHEREAS**, through its 30-year history, the CDBG program has been a partnership of the federal, state and local governments, business and the nonprofit sector which carry out activities that improve the lives and neighborhoods of low and moderate income families; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), in FY 2004 CDBG provided funds for thousands of activities, assisting over 23 million persons and households through such activities as expanding homeownership activities, eliminating slums and blighting influences, improving infrastructure such as roads, water and sewer systems, libraries, community centers, adult day care and after school care of children, homeless housing facilities, employment training, transportation services, crime awareness and business and job creation; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Gardner uses CDBG funds in the amount of \$255,000 in 2003-2004 to complete improves to Park Street; providing significant renewal to that older area of the community; and

**WHEREAS**, the President’s FY 2006 budget proposes to cut the CDBG program by \$1.16 billion or by 35% from FY 2005 funding levels; and

**WHEREAS**, the President’s FY 2006 budget proposed to transfer the CDBG program from HUD to the Department of Commerce where it will be consolidated with 17 other economic development programs;

**WHEREAS**, should such a proposal be enacted, it would have a devastating effect on the City of Gardner’s CDBG program by limiting funding to revitalize and enhance older areas of the community.

**WHEREAS**, Gardner has used CDBG funding in older areas of the community to replace streets, and add sidewalks and proper storm drainage, public amenities that are taken for granted in the new subdivisions.

**WHEREAS**, with other small towns, the core of my community is primarily pre-1960s housing, small homes and bungalows, and a few aged, turn of the century Victorians. CDBG funding had provided half of the monies for Gardner to provide new life to its core, improving home value, and allowing the residents to have pride in their neighborhoods.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City of Gardner hereby calls on the Congress to preserve the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program within HUD and provide a FY 2006 funding level of at least \$4.7 billion overall, with no less than \$4.35 billion in formula funding.

ADOPTED by the Governing Body of the city of Gardner, Kansas, on March 21, 2005.

(Seal)

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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City Clerk